

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a salary report to a self designated survey group utilizing a computer processing system, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer processing system comprising:

at least one computer processor for processing salary data;

storage means for storing salary data on a storage medium;

means for receiving salary data;

establishing a salary survey service ~~on a server~~ for storing and accessing salary data, for a self designated group, on said computer processing system;

said service establishing step comprising establishing, ~~for a self designated group,~~ parameters for inclusion in said self-designated group and job positions to include in the salary survey;

accepting memberships from a plurality of companies to the salary survey service;

receiving, verifying and storing salary data from a plurality of member companies on said data storing means ~~in a database associated with the server;~~

aging at least a portion of said salary data utilizing at least one annual growth rate selected at the time of generating said report for at least a portion of said stored salary data;

entering a plurality of parameters utilizing standard query language, said parameters comprising an annual growth rate expressed as a percentage and at least one of ~~at least one~~ a geographical parameter defining at least one geographical region for said salary report, ~~at least one~~ a job position, ~~at least one~~ a company size designator, and an industry designator, ~~and one annual growth rate expressed as a percentage~~; and generating a salary report for the survey group and for said entered parameters.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein members of the survey group are from at least one of a same industry, size, profession, or geographic region.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of members to the salary service comprise companies.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of members to the salary service comprise individuals.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of members to the salary service comprise members of at least one trade association.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of accepting memberships comprises accepting contributor memberships and subscriber memberships.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of forming at least one subgroup comprising less than all of the members of said group.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of generating further includes the step of receiving at least one parameter defining information to be presented by the salary survey.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing Internet access to said report, wherein the step of providing access further comprises the step of providing access to only members of the survey group.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of providing access further comprises the step of providing access to the plurality of members of the salary survey service.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the salary data relates to predetermined job positions.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a salary report to a survey group utilizing a computer processing system, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a computer processing system comprising:

at least one computer processor for processing salary data;

storage means for storing salary data on a storage medium;

means for receiving salary data;

establishing a salary survey service ~~on a server~~ for storing and accessing salary data, for a self designated group, on said computer processing system;

accepting salary data from a plurality of participants to the salary survey service;

receiving, verifying and storing the salary data from the participants ~~in a database associated with the server~~ on said data storing means;

receiving designations from the participants indicating group defining parameters for the type of participants to be included in a survey group, wherein said designations include geographical information;

grouping a portion of the participants into the survey group designated by a portion of the plurality of participants;

receiving survey parameters defining information to be presented by the salary survey;

providing participants with the ability to select particular job positions which are surveyed;

aging at least a portion of said salary data at the time of generating said report for at least a portion of said stored salary data;

generating a salary report for the survey group using the aged salary data; and

providing access via an Internet to the salary report.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein members of the survey group are from at least one of a same industry, revenue size, profession, or geographic region.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of members to the salary service comprise companies.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of members to the salary service comprise individuals.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the plurality of members to the salary service comprise trade associations.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of providing access further comprises the step of providing access to only members of the survey group.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 12, wherein the step of providing access further comprises the step of providing access to the plurality of members of the salary survey service.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the salary data relates to said predetermined job positions.

20. (Currently Amended) [[A]] An apparatus comprising a computer processing system for providing a salary survey report to participants of a survey group via an Internet, said apparatus comprising:

at least one computer processor for processing salary data;

storage means for storing salary data received from at least a portion of said participants on a storage medium;

means for receiving unverified salary data from participants of a salary survey service;

~~a database for storing salary data; and~~

~~a server means for providing access to the Internet; said server configured~~

to:

~~accept salary data from participants of a salary survey service;~~
~~store the salary data received from at least a portion of the participants in an~~
~~unverified salary database;~~
~~check~~ means for verifying said unverified salary data;
~~transfer~~ means for transferring verified salary data to a wage information
database table;
~~group~~ means for grouping a portion of the plurality of participants into a
survey group designated by said portion of the plurality of participants; and
means for generating ~~generate~~ a salary report for participants of the survey
group, and
~~provide access to the salary survey via the Internet.~~

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus according to Claim 20,
wherein participants of the survey group are grouped according to at least one of
industry, size, profession, or geographic region.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus according to Claim 20,
wherein the plurality of participants to the salary service comprise companies.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus according to Claim 20,
wherein the plurality of participants to the salary service comprise individuals.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the plurality of participants to the salary service comprise trade associations.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein said participants comprise contributing members and subscriber members.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the ~~server~~ receiving means is further configured to receive designations indicating the participants to be included in the survey group.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the ~~server~~ receiving means is further configured to receive at least one parameter defining information to be presented by the salary survey.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the ~~server~~ accessing means is further configured to provide access to only participants of the survey group.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the ~~server~~ accessing means is further configured to provide access to the plurality of participants of the salary survey service.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the salary data is related to said predetermined job positions.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said at least one parameter comprises company size.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one industry.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8 wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one geographic region.

35. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein said at least one parameter comprises company size.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one industry.

37. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein said at least one parameter comprises at least one geographic region.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of holding received data for verification and releasing said salary data after verification.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12 wherein said steps of receiving, verifying and storing salary data comprise initially locating received data in an unconfirmed data base table, verifying data from said unconfirmed database table, and transferring verified data to a wage information database table.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39 wherein data which was in said wage information database table and was replaced by verified data, is archived.

41. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein said steps of receiving, verifying and storing salary data comprise initially locating received

data in an unconfirmed data base table, verifying data from said unconfirmed database table, and transferring verified data to a wage information database table.

42. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 41 wherein data which was in said wage information database table and was replaced by verified data, is archived.